SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I move:-

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2003.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL, 2003.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Sir, I move:-

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2001, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with the intensification of cross-border terrorism and the continued offensive agenda of Pak ISI targeted at destabilising India and the post 11th September developments, it became necessary to put in place a special law to deal with terrorist acts. Accordingly, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA, 2002) was enacted and notified on 28.03.2002.

The POTA, 2002 clearly defines the terrorist act and the terrorist in Section 3 and grants special powers to the investigating authorities under the Act. However, in order to ensure that these powers are not misused and the violation of human rights does not take place, specific safeguards have been built into the Act. Some of these are:

No court can take cognisance of any offence under the Act without the previous sanction of the Central Government or, as the case may be, of the State Government.

No officer lower in rank than the Deputy Superintendent of Police can investigate offences under the Act.

Confession made by a person before a police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police is admissible as evidence under the Act provided such person is produced within 48 hours before a magistrate along with his confessional statement.